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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIEST 00145 130948Z

17/46
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 CIAE-00 AID-05 FDRE-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 EURE-00 /045 W
---------- 085192
O 131000Z SEPT 76
FM AMCONSUL TRIESTE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0526
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS TRIESTE 0145

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, IT, US
SUBJ: SEPTEMBER 9-10 VISIT BY JENO PAULUCCI

REF: STATE 219514

1. SUMMARY. DURING SEPTEMBER 9-10 VISIT TO FRIULI EARTHQUAKE ZONE, JENO PAULUCCI, PRESIDENT, ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION, WAS BRIEFED BY US OFFICIALS ON RELIEF ACTIVITIES, CALLED ON REGIONAL PRESIDENT

COMELLI, AND MET WITH MAYORS OF SEVERAL OF THE HARDEST-HIT AREAS AND WHERE US AID PROJECTS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER-WAY. PAULUCCI HAD CANDID EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH LOCAL AND REGIONAL OFFICIALS ON PROGRESS OF RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS TO DATE. BEFORE DEPARTING, HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH VISIT, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, AND NOTED THE FAVORABLE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY ITALIAN OFFICIALS ON US AID EFFORT.
END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING BRIEFING BY US OFFICIALS, JENO PAULUCCI, PRESIDENT, ITALIAN AMERICANFOUNDATION, PAID COURTESY CALL ON REGIONAL PRESIDENT COMELLI IN UDINE SEPTEMBER 9. PAULUCCI TOLD COMELLI OF HIS RECENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND OF HIS ORGANIZATION S PLANNED BENEFIT DINNER FOR FRIULI IN WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 16.
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COMELLI EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR US EFFORTS, REQUESTED PAULUCCI TO CONVEY THESE SENTIMENTS TO PRESIDENT FORD, AFFIRMED THE REGION S SUPPORT FOR THE AID PROGRAM AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS THUS FAR. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT CONTINUED COLLABORATION BETWEEN USAID REPS AND REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOULD INSURE SUCCESSFUL REALIZATION OF THE PROJECTS. HE OUTLINED INITIATIVES UNDERWAY AT LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS TO SECURE SATISFACTORY TEMPORARY HOUSING AND TO ACCOMPLISH PERMANENT RE-CONSTRUCTION.

3. ON SEPTEMBER 10, ACCOMPANIED BY AIDES AND US OFFICIALS, PAULUCCI VISITED TARCENTO AND GEMONA WHERE HE MET WITH MAYORS AND OBSERVED AT FIRST HAND THE STRICKEN AREA. TARCENTO MAYOR CLARIFIED METHODS BEING USED TO PROVIDE FUNDS AND TO LET CONTRACTS FOR PRIVATE HOME REPAIRS. HE ALSO DISCUSSED STATUS OF PROVISION OF TEMPORARY HOUSING. MAYOR EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH PLANNED US FUNDING OF CENTER FOR THE AGED IN TARCENTO AND WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAM TO DATE.

4. DURING VISIT TO GEMONA, PAULUCCI SPOKE WITH SEVERAL RESIDENTS, AND CALLED ON LOCAL OFFICIALS. HE INQUIRED ABOUT HOUSING SITUATION, LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ESTABLISHMENT FOR RELIEF, THE EXTENT OF ITALIAN PRIVATE INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT, AND THE OFFICIALS ASSESSMENT OF USG ASSISTANCE PLANS. GEMONA MAYOR CANDIDLY DISCUSSED THESE SUBJECTS, NOTING THAT DEFINITE OPPORTUNITIES STILL EXISTED FOR PRIVATE INDUSTRY INITIATIVES TO ASSIST IN THE RECONSTRUCTION. THE MAYOR AND HIS ASSOCIATES SAID THAT USG FUNDING OF SCHOOL AND CENTER FOR THE AGED IN GENONA WILL SIGNIFICANTLY ASSIST COMMUNITY AND THAT THEY WERE MOST PLEASED BOTH THAT THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO UNDERTAKE THESE PROJECTS AND WITH THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROGRAM. PAULUCCI THEN VISITED ONE OF GEMONA S TENT CITIES WHERE HE SPOKE WITH SEVERAL OCCUPANTS. RAIN WHICH FELL THROUGHOUT THE DAY, BROUGHT HOME TO PAULUCCI IN MOST DRAMATIC FIRST-HAND MANNER PLIGHT OF GEMONA S RESIDENTS WHO ARE LIVING UNDER TENTS.

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5. FOLLOWING VISIT TO TARCENTO AND GEMONA, PAULUCCI RETURNED TO UDINE WHERE HE MET WITH THE PRESIDENT AND COORDINATOR OF THE NATIONAL ALPINISTS ASSOCIATION (ANA). ANA REPRESENTATIVES SUMMARIZED THEIR EFFORTS IN THE FRIULI THUS FAR AND THEIR PROPOSED INVOLVEMENT IN USAID PLANS FOR CENTERS FOR THE AGED. CURRENT ITALIAN ORGANIZATION FOR ITALIAN RELIEF/RECONSTRUCTION AND POSSIBLE

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITALIAN INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE WERE ALSO DISCUSSED.

6. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, PAULUCCI SAID HE FELT HIS VISIT HAD BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. HE NOTED THE FAVORABLE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY LOCAL AND REGIONAL OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE HAD MET OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF USG ASSISTANCE EFFORTS IN THE REGION. MOEN.

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TRIEST00145
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760344-1011
From: TRIESTE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609105/aaaagkoq.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 219514
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vandyklc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by vandyklc>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 970930
Subject: SEPTEMBER 9-10 VISIT BY JENO PAULUCCI
TAGS: EAID, OTRA, IT, US, (PAULUCCI, JENO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006